



Arbiter in Trump docs probe signals intent to move quickly



Protesters stand outside as Donald Trump's lawyers enter Brooklyn Federal Court on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press



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Arbiter in Trump docs probe signals intent to move quickly

From Front

By **ERIC TUCKER** and **MICHAEL R. SISAK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The independent arbiter tasked with inspecting documents seized in an FBI search of former President Donald Trump's Florida home said Tuesday he intends to push briskly though the review process and appeared skeptical of the Trump team's reluctance to say whether it believed the records had been declassified.

"We're going to proceed with what I call responsible dispatch," Raymond Dearie, a veteran Brooklyn judge, told lawyers for Trump and the Justice Department in their first meeting since his appointment last week as a so-called special master.

The purpose of the meeting was to sort out next steps in a review process expected to slow by weeks, if not months, the criminal investigation into the retention of top-secret information at Mar-a-Lago after Trump left the White House. As special master, Dearie will be responsible for sifting through the thousands of documents recovered during the Aug. 8 FBI search and segregating those protected by claims of executive privilege or attorney-client privilege.



Former President Donald Trump's attorneys Linsey Halligan, James Trusty, and Chris Kise arrive at Brooklyn Federal Court on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

Though Trump's lawyers had requested the appointment of a special master to ensure an independent review of the documents, one of the former president's attorneys, James Trusty, made clear they were concerned that Dearie's proposed deadlines were too ambitious. The lawyers are also resisting Dearie's request for information about whether the seized records had been declassified, as Trump has maintained. In a letter to Dearie on Monday night, the lawyers said that issue could be part of Trump's defense in the event of an indictment.

But Dearie appeared unsatisfied with that position. He said if Trump's lawyers will not actually assert that the records have been declassified and the Justice

Department instead makes an acceptable case that they remain classified, then "as far as I'm concerned, that's the end of it."

Trusty said the Trump team should not be forced at this point to disclose a possible defense based on the idea that the records had been declassified. He denied that the lawyers were trying to engage in "gamesman-like" behavior but instead believed it was a process that required "baby steps." But Dearie at one point observed: "I guess my view of it is, you can't have your cake and eat it" too.

Trump has maintained without evidence that all of the records were declassified; his lawyers have not echoed that claim, though they have repeatedly asserted that a president has absolute authority to de-

classify information, and they said in a separate filing Tuesday that the Justice Department had not proven that the records remained classified.

"In the case of someone who has been president of the United States, they have unfettered access along with unfettered declassification authority," Trusty said Tuesday.

The resistance to the judge's request was notable because it was Trump's lawyers, not the Justice Department, who had requested the appointment of a special master and because the recalcitrance included an acknowledgment that the probe could be building toward an indictment.

In the letter, Trump's lawyers said the time for addressing that question would be if they pressed forward with demands for the Justice Department to return some of the property taken from Mar-a-Lago.

"Otherwise, the Special Master process will have forced the Plaintiff to fully and specifically disclose a defense to the merits of any subsequent indictment," they wrote.

The Trump team also asked the judge to consider pushing back all of the deadlines for his review. That work includes inspecting the roughly 11,000 documents, including about 100

marked as classified, that were taken during the FBI's search.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee who granted the Trump team's request for a special master, had set a Nov. 30 deadline for Dearie's review and instructed him to prioritize his inspection of classified records. The Justice Department has asked a federal appeals court to halt Cannon's order requiring it to provide him with classified documents for his review. That appeal is pending.

Dearie, a Ronald Reagan appointee whose name is on the atrium of his Brooklyn courthouse, made clear during Tuesday's meeting that he intended to meet the deadlines, saying there was "little time" to complete the assigned tasks.

Julie Edelstein, a Justice Department lawyer, said she was hopeful that the department could get the documents digitized and provided to Trump's lawyers by early next week. She noted that the department had given the legal team a list of five vendors approved by the government for the purposes of scanning, hosting and otherwise processing the seized records.

After some haggling, Dearie instructed Trusty's lawyers to choose a vendor by Friday. □



This undated U.S. State Department photo shows Ambassador Lynne Tracy. President Joe Biden has formally nominated Tracy, a veteran foreign service officer with years of experience in Russian affairs to be the next U.S. ambassador to Russia.

Associated Press

Biden formally nominates new ambassador to Russia

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Tuesday formally nominated a veteran foreign service officer with years of experience in Russian affairs to be the next U.S. ambassador to Russia. The White House announced the nomination of Lynne Tracy, the current U.S. ambassador to Armenia, to the post after the Russian government signed off on the choice. Tracy's selection had been known for some time but had not been announced pending Russia's approval. Ambassadorial nominations must be approved by the host government under the rules

of diplomatic protocol.

Such approval is generally routine but couldn't be taken for granted at a time of particularly fraught U.S.-Russian relations over Ukraine, the detention of Americans in Russia, allegations of Russian meddling in U.S. and other elections, and an escalating spat over the staffing of embassies in Washington and Moscow.

Tracy, who speaks Russian, previously served as a senior adviser for Russian affairs in the State Department's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, and as the deputy chief of mission at the U.S.

Embassy in Moscow. She also held several posts in Central and South Asia.

The previous U.S. ambassador to Moscow, John Sullivan, left earlier this month, in a departure that had been expected this fall but was accelerated by the failing health of his wife, who died a day after his return.

Tracy is well-regarded within diplomatic circles. She received a State Department heroism award from then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2009. □

Feds: 47 exploited pandemic to steal \$250M from food program

By **AMY FORLITI**

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Federal authorities charged 47 people in Minnesota with conspiracy and other counts in what they said Tuesday was the largest fraud scheme yet to take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic by stealing \$250 million from a federal program that provides meals to low-income children.

Prosecutors say the defendants created companies that claimed to be offering food to tens of thousands of children across Minnesota, then sought reimbursement for those meals through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's food nutrition programs. Prosecutors say few meals were actually served, and the defendants used the money to buy luxury cars, property and jewelry.

"This \$250 million is the floor," Andy Luger, the U.S. attorney for Minnesota, said at a news conference. "Our investigation continues."

Many of the companies that claimed to be serving food were sponsored by a nonprofit called Feeding Our Future, which submitted the companies' claims for reimbursement. Feeding Our Future's founder and executive director, Aimee Bock, was among those indicted, and authorities say she and others in her organization submitted the fraudulent claims for reimbursement and received kickbacks.

Bock's attorney, Kenneth Udoibok, said the indictment "doesn't indicate guilt or innocence." He said he wouldn't comment further until seeing the indictment. In interviews after law enforcement searched multiple sites in January, including Bock's home and offices, Bock denied stealing money and said she never saw evidence of fraud.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Justice made prosecuting pandemic-related fraud a priority. The department has already taken enforcement actions related to more than \$8 billion in suspected pandem-

ic fraud, including bringing charges in more than 1,000 criminal cases involving losses in excess of \$1.1 billion.

Federal officials repeatedly described the alleged fraud as "brazen," and decried that it involved a program intended to feed children who needed help during the pandemic. Michael Paul, special agent in charge of the Minneapolis FBI office, called it "an astonishing display of deceit." Luger said the government was billed for more than 125 million fake meals, with some defendants making up names for children by using an online random name generator. He displayed one form for reimbursement that claimed a site served exactly 2,500 meals each day Monday through Friday — with no children ever getting sick or otherwise missing from the program.

"These children were simply invented," Luger said.

He said the government has so far recovered \$50 million in money and property and expects to recover more.

The defendants in Minnesota face multiple counts, including conspiracy, wire fraud, money laundering and bribery. Luger said some of them were arrested Tuesday morning.

According to court documents, the alleged scheme targeted the USDA's federal child nutrition programs, which provide food to low-income children and adults. In Minnesota, the funds are administered by the state Department of Education, and meals have historically been provided to kids through educational programs, such as schools or day care centers. But during the pandemic, some of the standard requirements for sites to participate in the federal food nutrition programs were waived. The USDA allowed for-profit restaurants to participate, and allowed food to be distributed outside educational programs. The charging documents say the defendants exploited such changes "to enrich

themselves."

The documents say Bock oversaw the scheme and that she and Feeding Our Future sponsored the opening of nearly 200 federal child nutrition program sites throughout the state, knowing that the sites intended to submit fraudulent claims. "The sites fraudulently claimed to be serving meals to thousands of children a day within just days or weeks of being formed and despite having few, if any staff and little to no experience serving this volume of meals," according to the indictments.

One example described a small storefront restaurant in Willmar, in west-central Minnesota, that typically served only a few dozen people a day. Two defen-



Aimee Bock, the executive director of the nonprofit Feeding Our Future, speaks, Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022 in St. Anthony, Minn.
Associated Press

dants offered the owner \$40,000 a month to use his restaurant, then billed the government for some 1.6 million meals through 11 months of 2021, according to one indictment. They

listed the names of around 2,000 children — nearly half of the local school district's total enrollment — and only 33 names matched actual students, the indictment said. □

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Idaho a step closer to having largest research dairy in U.S.

By **KEITH RIDLER**

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The University of Idaho's plan to build the nation's largest research dairy and experimental farm cleared a big hurdle on Tuesday.

Idaho Gov. Brad Little and two other statewide-elected officials on the Idaho Land Board approved the university's plan to use \$23 million to buy roughly 640 acres of farmland in south-central Idaho, the heart of the state's dairy industry. That would be the main focus of the school's proposed Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment, or CAFE.

Idaho's dairy industry is the third-largest dairy producer in the nation, behind California and Wisconsin. But the industry in Idaho — and in general — faces a range of challenges with greenhouse gas emissions from animals, land and water pollution, and waste systems from dairies that can have thousands of cows that produce tons of manure.

University of Idaho's president Scott Green, who called the vote a big win for the state, the university and the dairy industry, said the school hasn't been able to do the large-scale research the industry needs



In this March 11, 2009, photo, a line of Holstein dairy cows feed through a fence at a dairy farm outside Jerome, Idaho.

to find solutions for those and other complex problems. "The research that we do there is going to help us improve the water quality within the state," Green said after the vote. "It's going to help us utilize waste products from the dairy industry in a way that's beneficial to the environment and to agriculture."

Green said students will get the education needed to work on the cutting edge of agribusiness and dairy sciences. He also said CAFE opens the doors for the

school to receive millions in research grant money, potentially leading to new ideas and innovation.

If CAFE succeeds as envisioned, the operation would include an experimental farm and 2,000-cow research dairy in Minidoka County. Classrooms, labs and faculty offices would be constructed in Jerome County near where Interstate 84 and U.S. Route 93 intersect. A food processing pilot plant with a workforce training and education facility would be

located at the College of Southern Idaho campus in Twin Falls County.

The state's dairy industry has supported the plan, donating more than \$8.5 million to date, according to state officials.

Specifically, the board on Tuesday voted to use \$23 million from the 2021 sale of 282 acres of endowment land in Caldwell benefiting the University of Idaho's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to buy roughly 640 acres of farmland in Minidoka County north

Associated Press

of Rupert owned by the university — turning that into endowment land. The school will now use that endowment land and money to build the research dairy. Endowment land is land Idaho received at statehood and that the Land Board manages to produce the maximum return over the long term for beneficiaries, mainly public education.

Land Board members had other options for the money. It could have transferred the \$23 million to a fund that would generate money through investments. It also could have kept the money for potential investments in timberland, the most dependable revenue generator for state land.

Choosing the university option was unique in that it recognized research as an asset.

"If this was more affordable research, private industry would be doing it," Little said after the meeting. "These are the kinds of things government has to do, these long-term, low-return (investments). If we get research out of this that creates a more sustainable, cleaner way to have a dairy industry in Idaho, that's a win-win for everybody." □



The Massachusetts state flag flies in front of Boston City Hall, Monday, May 2, 2016.

Associated Press

By **MARK PRATT**

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The commission appointed to come up with a new state seal and motto for Massachusetts to replace the current ones that critics decry as racially insensitive to the

state's Indigenous communities discussed some early ideas, but made no firm decisions, at a meeting Tuesday.

The Special Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, made up of lawmakers,

Massachusetts panel explores changes to state seal, motto

members of Indigenous tribes, historians and others, also disclosed plans to solicit feedback with a survey and several virtual and in-person public forums.

The current seal that appears on state flags, which dates to the late 19th century, features a depiction of a Native American man beneath a colonist's arm brandishing a sword, which critics say is a reference to English colonists' cruelty to local tribes centuries ago. A new seal should not depict a human, said Donna Curtin of the commission's research and design subcommittee.

"While a majority of state

seals do include a human figure, the subcommittee's feelings were that the design for the new seal should not include a human figure as it was felt it could not reflect the full diversity or identities of either Indigenous peoples or of the whole peoples on the Commonwealth," she said. Some ideas include symbols or elements from nature that might better reflect the state.

"We're on the same page that we want to see a completely new design here," said Commission co-Chair Brian Weeden.

The state's Latin motto that translates as, "By the sword

we seek peace, but peace only under liberty," dates to about 1659 and is attributed to English politician Algernon Sydney, according to the secretary of state's office.

A new motto should reflect concepts such as liberty, peace, justice, equity and educational opportunity, said Michael Comeau of the commission's history and usages subcommittee. It should also be easier to understand.

"It was suggested that the motto should be recognizable and be transferrable and should not require explanation to the general public," he said. □

Dutch king unveils billions in aid amid soaring inflation

By **MOLLY QUELL**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch King Willem-Alexander unveiled plans Tuesday from the Dutch government to help households squeezed by rising costs, in his annual address to the nation.

Inflation, energy prices and the war in Ukraine were just some of the "uncertainties" the country is facing, the monarch said in his annual speech, made every year on the third Tuesday in September. The speech is immediately followed by the release of the budget for the upcoming year.

Boos could be heard from the crowd as the royal family — just back from the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in London — traveled from their palace in The Hague to the National Theater by horse-drawn carriage in a pomp-filled ceremony.

"People are feeling increasingly uncertain about both the immediate and the longer-term future," the king said, speaking to a joint sitting of both houses of parliament. He pledged an 18 billion euro (\$17.9 billion) aid package to help low- and middle-income households. Notably missing from the budget was an energy price cap that politicians



Dutch King Willem-Alexander marked the opening of the parliamentary year with a speech outlining the government's budget plans for the year ahead at the Royal Theatre in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022.

and energy companies reached an agreement on Monday, although the king alluded to the plan in his speech. As recently as last week, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte was resistant to the idea of a cap, saying any help would have to wait until the new year. The measure sets a price ceiling for gas and electricity based on average use from January 2022. The government expects the limit to save households an average of 190 euros (\$189) per month.

Around 10,000 people turned out to watch the procession, which took place for the first time since 2019 after two years of pandemic restrictions. Elementary schools in The Hague were closed so children could participate in the festivities.

"I just want to see the horses," 3-year-old Emma told The Associated Press while waiting behind barricades along the route. For the first time, Princess Amelia accompanied her parents. She turned 18 this

year and is now expected to pick up a number of royal duties.

Not everyone was happy with the day. Protesters held signs saying "Not my king" and "Rutte must go." One man carrying an upside-down Dutch flag, a symbol of anti-government protests, described his struggle with soaring gas bills and supermarket prices.

The police reported five people were arrested and they confiscated six tractors. Farmers, upset about environmental regulations

restricting their operations, have been protesting over the past year by driving their tractors into The Hague. Last week, the city announced that no large vehicles would be allowed on the streets as a security measure.

Echoing the king's sober sentiment, Finance Minister Sigrud Kaag told reporters, "It is not a festive time for many Dutch people" when she presented the official budget. The package includes an increase in the minimum wage, a reduction in income tax levels and an expansion of child and health care subsidies. The new budget includes 3.9 billion euros (\$3.9 billion) for Ukraine, in both military and humanitarian aid. Last month, the Dutch sent 90 soldiers to provide basic training for Ukrainian military personnel.

The government has also allotted one billion euros (\$1 billion) to build housing for refugees. Hundreds of asylum-seekers have been sleeping outside of an asylum reception center in squalid conditions because there aren't enough beds. Bold hats could be seen around the city as part of the annual "hoedjesparade," a tradition where women wear striking headgear to the event. □

Associated Press

Putin blasts U.S. attempts to preserve global domination

By **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday blasted what he described as U.S. efforts to preserve its global domination and ordered officials to boost weapons production amid the fighting in Ukraine.

Speaking while receiving credentials from foreign ambassadors to Moscow, Putin said "the objective development toward a multipolar world faces resistance of those who try to preserve their hegemony in global affairs and control everything — Latin

America, Europe, Asia and Africa."

He added that "the hegemon has succeeded in doing so for quite a long time, but it can't go on forever ... regardless of the developments in Ukraine."

Putin has repeatedly cast his decision to send troops into Ukraine as a response to alleged Western encroachment on Russia's vital security interests.

The Russian leader described Western sanctions against Russia over its action in Ukraine as part of efforts by the U.S. and its allies to strengthen their positions, but charged that

that they have backfired against their organizers and also hurt poor countries.

"As for Russia, we won't deviate from our sovereign course," Putin said.

Speaking later during a separate meeting on military industries, he said Russian weapons have shown high efficiency during the fighting in Ukraine and told officials to quickly increase output of military industries. "Our equipment efficiently confronts Western types of weapons," Putin said. "Practically all of NATO weapons stockpiles have been brought to support



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers his speech as he attends a ceremony to receive credentials from newly appointed foreign ambassadors to Russia in the Kremlin, in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

the current regime in Kyiv." Putin added that Russia should study Western weapons to improve its own arsenals.

"We can and must learn about these arsenals, ev-

everything they have, everything they use against us to qualitatively increase our potential and improve our equipment, our weapons where we need to do it," he noted. □

U.N. experts: Rights abuses continue in Maduro's Venezuela

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
and JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Independent experts working with the U.N.'s top human rights body say Venezuelan authorities have failed to hold to account state-backed perpetrators of violations including arbitrary executions, sexual violence and torture of civilians, warning that abuses by intelligence and counterintelligence services are continuing.

The third report from the fact-finding mission on Venezuela, commissioned by the U.N.'s Human Rights Council, released Tuesday adds new detail on a string of rights violations including possible crimes against humanity under President Nicolás Maduro's government that the experts first documented two years ago.

The report details on the chain of command followed in the commission of torture, sexual violence and other cruel acts in efforts to suppress opposition against the government. The document states Maduro and ruling party leader Diosdado Cabello have given orders "identifying targets for investigation,"



Venezuela's National Intelligence Service (SEBIN) headquarters, known as El Helicoide, stands in front of La Cota 905 neighborhood in Caracas, Venezuela, Sept. 12, 2022.

Associated Press

including civilians and government critics. Those orders were followed by members of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service, who arrested individuals after "a period of surveillance and investigation" and tortured or subjected them "to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Some were tortured for days or weeks.

The intelligence service "relied on a range of torture

methods, including beatings, electric shocks, asphyxiation with plastic bags and stress positions, as well as threats to kill and rape detainees, or other forms of psychological torture," according to the report. The document says the agency's main targets included opposition, student and protest leaders; journalists; and people working for non-governmental organizations.

"Venezuela is still facing

a profound human rights crisis," said Marta Valiñas, a Portuguese legal expert who chairs the mission.

The mission said authorities have not done enough to compensate victims, and cautioned that violations continue "to this day" under the military counterintelligence service, known as DGCIM, and the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service.

"The Venezuelan authorities have failed to hold

perpetrators to account and provide reparations to victims in a context where judicial reforms announced from 2021 have failed to address the justice system's lack of independence and impartiality," a statement from the mission said.

The team, which drew its findings in part from nearly 250 interviews, documented a total of 122 cases of victims who were subjected by DGCIM agents to torture, sexual violence and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment at its headquarters in Caracas and covert centers around the country.

The report also documents human rights abuses in a remote region where illegal gold mining is prevalent. The area known as the Arco Minero del Orinoco was established last decade as the country's oil industry, whose proceeds kept the country moving, came undone.

The region has become heavily militarized and armed groups are allowed to operate. The mission's findings include attacks on indigenous populations in the area that generate opportunities for individuals close to power to generate personal wealth. □

Eritrea accused of starting offensive on Ethiopia's Tigray

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)

— Tigrayan authorities say Eritrea has launched a full-scale offensive along the country's border with

northern Ethiopia in what appears to be an escalation of last month's renewal of fighting. The Eritreans are fighting alongside Ethiopian federal forces, including commando units, as well as

allied militia, Tigray spokesman Getachew Reda said Tuesday. "Eritrea is deploying its entire army as well as reservists. Our forces are heroically defending their positions," he tweeted.

A humanitarian worker in the northern Ethiopian town of Adigrat told The Associated Press that Eritrean forces were shelling the surrounding areas.

It was not immediately possible to obtain comment from authorities in Ethiopia or Eritrea, which lies north of Tigray.

Britain and Canada issued travel advisories last week telling their citizens in Eritrea to be vigilant after authorities there called up citizens to report for military duty.

The war in Tigray is estimat-

ed to have killed tens of thousands of people and left millions without basic services for well over a year. Eritrean forces fought on the side of Ethiopian federal troops in Tigray when war started in November 2020. Eritrean forces were implicated in some of the worst atrocities committed in the conflict charges they deny. The war reignited in August after a lull in fighting earlier this year.

The U.S. envoy to the Horn of Africa told reporters Tuesday that Washington has been tracking Eritrean troop movements across the border.

"They are extremely concerning, and we condemn it," Mike Hammer said of the troop movements. "All ex-

ternal foreign actors should respect Ethiopia's territorial integrity and avoid fueling the conflict." He reiterated a call for the warring sides to enter into talks saying that "there is no military solution to the conflict."

Inside Tigray now, millions of residents are still largely cut off from the world. Communications and banking services are severed, and their restoration has been a key demand in mediation efforts.

The full-blown entry of Eritrea into the Tigray war looks set to complicate any peace efforts between Tigrayan leaders and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who mended ties with Eritrea as soon as he rose to power in 2018. □



A man crosses near a destroyed truck on a road leading to the town of Abi Adi, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia on May 11, 2021.

Associated Press

During a meeting of the United Nations in New York Prime Minister of Aruba elaborated on gender equality in education in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Prime minister of Aruba, Evelyn Wever-Croes took part in a panel together with, among others, Malala Yousafzai on the subject “Call to action to advance gender equality and girls and women’s empowerment in and through education”. Here, the topic “leaving no one behind” was also discussed. The prime minister explained everything Aruba is doing on gender equality and inclusivity.

As was previously announced, this week the prime minister is in New York to attend the General Assembly of the United Nations. In this context there are various meetings of interest for each country, and during these, Wever-Croes is providing information on what Aruba is doing regarding education during the “Transforming Education Summit 2022”.

Primarily, Wever-Croes gave a brief explanation on how Aruba dealt with education during the Covid-19 pandemic. Aruba kept schools closed for only three months, after which schools were opened once again. The reason behind this was because Aruba realized that women, older persons and children were those who were disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Regarding gender equality in education in Aruba, the prime minister shared some data. In Aruba, the amount of female and male children who can read and write is almost the same. Around 97 percent of the group of people older than 15 years is considered literate and there isn’t much difference between men and women in this.

While Aruba is making efforts to eliminate the gap between different genders in education, it was noted that there are more females registered in secondary school and university. Women have twice as much chance to follow advanced education. The percentage of women who continue studying after secondary education was 21 percent in 2016, compared to 11% of men.

However, it was noted that there is a difference when looking at STEM studies, when it is only a small fraction of females who participate in this type of study.



As an initiative to address this, Aruba launched the “STEM the GAP Project” through Supernova, in order to create more interest and to encourage more female children to continue an education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Prime minister Wever-Croes continued saying that this situation is not

only in Aruba. Globally more women pursue advanced education compared to males, thus this loss of interest is a concern all around the world. In this context it is important to see what the possible origin might be for this situation. Norms and expectations of certain gender also have an impact on male children, their motivations and wishes to study in different ways,

the prime minister commented. In Aruba, the national plan for education is based on the Sustainable Development Goal number Four, which is aligned to the principles of equality. Aside from this, recently the first National Gender Policy was finalized with the goal of addressing gender inequality and to ensure access to quality education for one and all.

In this context it is important to focus so that male children will not be excluded when coming up with efforts for gender equality, same for female children. Contrary to this, education based on equality benefits girls, boys and society.

Finalizing, the prime minister said: “If we ensure better education and a fairer society, a country will prosper more. In Aruba we are committed to this and we hope to be learn from others and work together to achieve necessary changes. This is something that as leaders we owe to our future generations. As was mentioned, girls are in the group of those most affected during Covid-19 pandemic, and if we don’t take this into consideration now during recovery, we run the risk of losing everything women fought for and achieved.” □



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Aqua Grill restaurant: The taste of New England with Caribbean flair



ORANJESTAD — One thing is for certain: Chef Scott Scheuerman and his team are famous for getting people hooked, just like the fish on your plate. You will get the taste of home fused with Caribbean while dining in elegance. Scheuerman will tell how Aqua Grill established its name since opening in 2002, and why it reaped accolades from such prestigious travel publications as Fodor's, who says, "This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers, who will find fresh fish galore..." Now is your chance to taste Aqua Grill's NEW seasonal menu and create a lifetime culinary memory.

'A Scheuer thing'

Secretly, we all know that the success of a restaurant begins in the kitchen. That is where the chef creates his magic and for Aqua Grill the culinary team has won an assortment of awards for their continuous delivery of 'haute-cuisine del mar.' Classic seafood is mingled with contemporary ideas resulting in surprising dishes that soon made the restaurant a must-dine, confirmed by established travel media specialists like Fodor's and Frommer's. American-born Scheuerman, executive chef of Aqua Grill, is thrilled about 'his restaurant'. "We started out as a New England style seafood restaurant, patterned after Boston style. But we quickly blended into some Caribbean, local flair... if you will. We do still offer the traditional New England dishes like whole Maine lobster, northern seafood plates like the salmon, tuna and swordfish. We buy also from the local fisherman to offer Caribbean dishes like snapper and grouper which are number one sellers in our restaurant being



the most prevalent local fishes. Catches like wahoo, mahi mahi and brasil are welcome too, anything that comes out of the water we embrace."

Fresh import from Boston

Aqua Grill flies in their own shipments on a weekly basis mostly from Boston because the price quality balance is the best, says the chef. "We are unique in this. Number one priority is buying fresh, we mean not frozen. Our original concept is New England seafood and we stick to that concept. They have a wonderful assortment of oysters and lobsters as well." Aqua Grill also offers international fusion type of menu items; actually all you wish for is there. A very balanced menu awaits you. "And we have options for meat lovers and vegetarians/vegans too. We, however, do not mix it up too much because we believe we do not want to lose our identity as a seafood restaurant," Scheuerman adds.

Sublime menu

Now is the time to indulge in Aqua Grill's dinner experience. The established restaurant offers a sensational menu. We present to you a Raw Bar with among others fresh Oysters on the half Shell, Littleneck Clams, Peruvian Ceviche and Lobster Salad. Steamed Dumplings and Prawns or Steamed Mussels seduce you from the open view kitchen. After that continue your gastronomic trip to heaven with the house specialties like Main Lobster, steamed or broiled or maybe you crave for the best Alaska King Crab Legs you have ever tasted? You haven't reached your destination yet because there are more main course options to blow you away: Seared Chilean Sea Bass,

Cioppino or Blackened Tuba are just some to mention.

Take a pick out of Aqua Grill's delicious desserts to finally conclude yes, this beats it all. We will be back for more. □

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Exposition 'Primary Colors' at Aruba's National Library



Oranjestad - The National Library of Aruba will be presenting an exposition by a group of Artisans, Artists, Graphic Designers and Photographers in their Exhibits Hall for the 20th of September.

This exhibition is open to the public for 3 weeks and will have a free entry.

The group presents different arts with the theme of the primary color Yellow. This collection of art is a diverse one including frames pictures, digital art, mosaic art and assemblage. They bring together a collection that is beautiful to see, joyful and unique. The opening will be this Wednesday from 5pm to 7pm.

Line-Up

Ad Rekkers, Carmen Tujeehut, Esther Jones, Gina Jie-Sam-Foek, Gwen Jie-Sam-Foek, Ilse Knijn, Janine Flanegin, Joshua Valbuena, Kat Uribe, Nimia Geerman, Paul Wong, Robby Solognier.

Love4Art Studio

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Hooiberg - "Orcuyo", for us!

Episode CLXXII - 172

Etnia Nativa through Island Insight shares our native cultural awareness stories, educates and safeguarding Aruba's heritage by elevating each reader into an island keeper state of mind.

Be encouraged to discover the true native effect in every episode, experience true reasons to love Aruba and live up your island adventure spirit in an authentic revealing way. Our island is a tiny tourist destination with a fragile ecosystem, covering thousands of years of history. Here is when Etnia Nativa's main objective comes to mind, sharing information through education.

Aruba has something that inevitably attracts us to its range of blues and whites. However, this time we go beyond her magnetic oceanic charm and embark on a journey to find what makes her truly unique, experiences that can only be lived in the middle of this land that magically emerges from out of the sea. When you see it from out of you air plane window you already know that you will experience one of the most beautiful landings in the world. Turquoise surrounded waters bordering the airport and a landing strip from where you will start this growing attraction to its sheer beauty.

In addition to the charming blue and green tones of the Caribbean Sea the island offers an elevated geology in its center that rises imposingly between the green vegetation and red roofs, while pretty sure that the Hooiberg will capture your attention as an "bon bini" or welcome- gesture.

Hooiberg is the hill or mound that stands practically in the middle of the island and can be seen from almost anywhere while here. A volcanic formation 165 m (541 ft.) high - however not the highest elevation, the higher



is Yamanota located at Arikok National Park and with a height of 188m (617 ft.). The Dutch word HOOIBERG means haystack in English, as the shape of the relief suggests a lone standing stack of hay. However its was not always called Hooiberg, since the Spaniards who arrived on our island before the Dutch called it "Pan de Azucar" which stands for a spanish sugar loaf English. And here is where our story takes another turn... because the Spanish settlers were welcomed on our beloved rock by the laborious Caquetio tribe - ancient farmers and fishermen who long ago traveled from out the tropical forests of South America and colonizing the Caribbean area. The Caquetio tribe was Arawak-speaking and they called "Orcuyo" that extinct pyramidal volcano.

Our ancestors, grandmothers and grandfathers possessed great knowledge that was transmitted through generations. Stories that comes out of each history corner of this mystical place they had a good understanding of our traditions.

We encourage you to get to know the true native culture and discover Aruba behind its white sandy beaches and turquoise waters.

We firmly believe that by sharing our memories we maintain the true identity of this tiny, beautiful but fragile place nestled in the Caribbean Sea. As na-

tives we have a mentality of belonging to the natural world in all its forms and expressions.

Check out our other educative episodes. If you are in good and healthy condition encourage yourself to climb the steps that take you to the top of Hooiberg a sunrises view from of the top of the Hooiberg is simply breath taking and the most beautiful and peaceful moment. You will see how the amazing colors of the sky turns warmer and warmer at the same time seeing how Aruba wakes each day.

If you love to explore Aruba we encourage you to do something different, outside the tourist grid. Become one of our exclusive visitors at Etnia Nativa, where you will be able to admire native art collections, archaeological artifacts and historical furniture while the installation itself and the lecturer will transform your mind set from an simple observer in to an conservator.

Since 1994, Etnia Nativa, which is a private residence and home of our columnist/artist, Anthony Croes, sharing with tourism an authentic view of Aruba. □

Anthony guides each guest step by step during the visit so take some time away from the beach scene, book your visit and feel the native effect! R.S.V.P. etnianativa03@gmail.com or whatsapp + 297 592 2702.



In 2023, the responsibilities of the Kingdom and of Aruba are redefined

King Willem Alexander: Commemoration of 150 years of abolition of slavery is time for the Netherlands to account for its history

A better future for the entire Kingdom: that is the objective of the budget for the Kingdom of the Netherlands that includes policy directed on the Caribbean countries within the Kingdom. The document is part of the Miljoenennota, the Kingdom Budget that was officially presented to the Dutch Parliament, the Staten Generaal, for its new Parliamentary Year.

His Majesty King Willem Alexander, for the first time in the presence of his daughter, Princess Amalia, opened the Dutch Parliamentary Year, known as Prinsjesdag.

In his speech, King Willem Alexander illustrated that we are living in times of contradiction and insecurity, with life security under pressure, poverty increasing despite economic growth and a decline in unemployment. There is worry about the aggressive tone in the Netherlands and because many have lost confidence in politics to solve problems.

The challenges for climate change, the necessary steps and the war in Ukraine remain great challenges. But the king urged to have a look at how all achievements have taken place, firmly, as was the case after World War II when his great-grandmother, Queen Wilhelmina told Parliament that attitude determines how to affront challenges.

"This year, the Cabinet began with an agenda for the future for 2030 that must provide future generations the ability to enjoy a safe and clean country. The perspective needs to be there for everyone, of every race and creed, in the Netherlands as in the Dutch Caribbean, in collaboration with Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Aruba."

The effects of war and sanctions against Russia have made electricity and food a lot more expensive, which has heavy consequences for people, families and businesses, creating a lot of pressure. 18 billion Euros were made available to temporarily compensate part of the price increase for families with medium and lower income. The support is also available for the BES islands – Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

But to increase quality of life, investments will be done in the area of recovery and renovation of the cultural sector that suffered during the coronavirus pandemic. Culture connects people and makes it possible to discuss difficult subjects, according to the king. He mentioned racism and discrimination and the fact that attention needs to be given to the less-pretty history of the Netherlands. "On the path to commemorating 150 years since the abolition of slavery, it's time to account for this part of our history", King Willem Alexander said, finishing his speech with another quote by his great-grandmother Wilhelmina: "Together we must work for the benefit of the Netherlands, and in this light, the government wants to work with Members of Parliament for contemporary solu-



tions and a good future for every resident of the Netherlands."

Policy for the Kingdom

The Kingdom of the Netherlands shares a past and a future, according to the Dutch Government in his policy for the Kingdom. The Netherlands wants to work on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual trust, for a better future and more hope for the Kingdom, after 10 years of economic stagnation and blows of hurricane, pandemic and another crisis.

The budget for the BES islands falls under management of Kingdom Affairs, and the objective is that in 2023 the islands can find their position as a dignified part of the Netherlands. Investments will be made to eliminate poverty and together with the governments of the islands, work to the benefit of all.

The Cabinet also put emphasis on the three autonomous countries in 2023. Part of the efforts of the Cabinet is to promote more cooperation with and among the countries in the long term. This way, the Dutch Cabinet is implementing motions of the Tweede Kamer (Dutch Congress), so that through mutual agreement, another term can be reached regarding the responsibilities of each autonomous country and the Kingdom as a whole.

The starting point remains that Curaçao, Sint Maarten and Aruba are autonomous countries with their own responsibilities.

In line with the Statuut, the countries can count on support and help, when they ask for it, and if it's in the framework of agreements made. An example of current cooperation is the Country Packages (landspakket).

Public finances, financial policy and supervision Sustainable public finances are a condition for economic development. Budget management of the three countries remains a challenge, with public debt increasing drastically. Covid-19 worsened the situation, where income

from tourism fell greatly and was to blame for increase in deficit. Thanks to the financial support from the Netherlands it was possible to continue providing public services and financial means were available to support the citizens and commerce.

The beginning of 2022 marked a strong economic recovery that helped public finances, but there still is no complete recovery. If in 2023 there is to be a balanced budget, that depends on how the countries take advantage of economic growth and at the same time keep public spending in check. A balanced budget is important for sustainable public finances. The way in which the measures in the landspakket are effectively implemented also has an influence on public finances.

For example, the reforms in the tax department will contribute to better compliance with paying of tax; improvement of financial policy will be directed on income and expenses; and the reform of the public sector to increase effectiveness and reduce spending will increase the trust of investors and consumers.

As such, healthy public finances are a very important subject and a crucial goal of the landspakket.

Aside from specific problems which hinder a declaration of accountant for the annual accounts, there are also fundamental problems in legislation, financial organization, financial processes and administration. Concrete steps are formulated to bring financial policy back in order for the coming years, in the form of a map. In 2023 the focus will remain on taking control of the implementation of reforms and improvement on reliability of information, processes and financial laws will become visible.

The Kingdom policy for 2023 will continue depending on the supervisory work of C(A)ft, which keeps an eye on financial execution of the landspakket and also advises the Kingdom Government and the autonomous countries in order to reach a sustainable financial policy. The Netherlands counts on the work of CAft being based on the Rijkswet Aruba financieel Toezicht (Kingdom law of Financial Supervision of Aruba), Raft, in 2023. The law is currently in the Parliaments of the Netherlands and Aruba. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

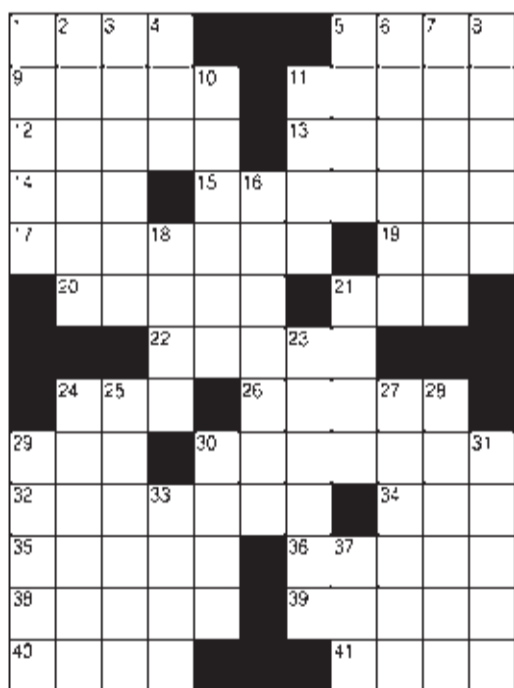
- ACROSS** 38 Back
1 Tater biter
5 Baseball's 39 Long sofa
Ty 40 Over
9 Singer again
Tucker 41 Corrals

11 Fable ending **DOWN**

- 12 Big name in auto racing 1 Lumber-jack's leftover
13 Tennis star Naomi 2 Comic strip
14 Convened 3 Clear, as a drain
15 Coagulated 4 Color 10 Very cold
17 Was a schemer 5 Tag info 11 State of mind
19 Vein yield 6 Speech maker 16 Like good hand-writing
20 Parsley unit 7 Pie producer 23 Thingamabob
21 Use a crowbar 8 Ice skate part 24 Like some sweaters
22 Lab liquids 37 Tear
24 Music category
26 Domineering
29 Ump's call
30 On the schedule
32 Soaked up, in a way
34 Sturgeon eggs
35 Honolulu hello
36 Kitchen come-on

PARROT FARM
IGUANA ACHIE
CONSTRUCTOR
CAPRI
SWAP BACK
ZEAL GALLEY
AMIDAN EEE
PISCES MAPS
STOP SUNS
ROPEES
CONSTRUCTOR
OWIE ONLINE
TEXT SHEEPED

Yesterday's answer



9-21

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three U's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-21

CRYPTOQUOTE

MV MR MP TQBA IUPCR VQ

ZUHW U DWVWA FQASC

KQA USS FIQ SMOW MP MV

— PWSRQP ZUPCWSU

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: UNLESS YOU ARE A PIZZA, THE ANSWER IS YES, I CAN LIVE WITHOUT YOU. — BILL MURRAY

EXPLAINER: How the strong U.S. dollar can affect everyone

By STAN CHOE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The buck

isn't stopping.

The value of the U.S. dollar has been on a tear for more than a year against everything from the British pound across the Atlantic to the South Korean won across the Pacific.

After rising again Friday, the dollar is near its highest level in more than two decades against a key index measuring six major currencies, including the euro and Japanese yen. Many professional investors don't expect it to ease off anytime soon.

The dollar's rise affects nearly everyone, even those who will never leave the U.S. borders. Here's a look at what's driving the U.S. dollar higher and what it can mean for investors and households:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THE DOLLAR IS STRONGER?

Essentially that one dollar can buy more of another currency than it could before.

Consider the Japanese yen. A year ago, \$1 could get a little less than 110 yen. Now, it can buy 143. That's about 30% more and one of the biggest moves the U.S. dollar has made against another currency. Foreign currency values are constantly shifting against each other as banks, businesses and traders buy and sell them in time zones around the world.

The U.S. Dollar index, which measures the dollar against the euro, yen and other major currencies, has climbed more than 14% this year. The gain looks even more impressive compared against other investments, most of which have had a dismal year. U.S. stocks are down more than 19%, bitcoin has more than halved and gold has lost more than 7%.

WHY IS THE DOLLAR STRENGTHENING?

Because the U.S. economy is doing better than others.



People transport a television to their car after shopping at a Best Buy store, Nov. 26, 2021, in Overland Park, Kan.

Associated Press

Even though inflation is high, the U.S. job market has remained remarkably solid. And other areas of the economy, such as the services sector, have been resilient.

That's helped offset worries about a slowing housing industry and other parts of the economy that do best when interest rates are low. That in turn has traders expecting the Federal Reserve to follow through on its promise to keep hiking interest rates sharply, and to hold them there a while, in hopes of knocking down the worst inflation in 40 years.

Such expectations have helped the yield of a 10-year Treasury more than double to 3.44% from roughly 1.33% a year ago.

WHO CARES ABOUT BOND YIELDS?

Investors who want to make more income off their money. And those juicier U.S. yields are drawing investors from all over the world.

Other central banks have been less aggressive than the Fed because their economies seem to be more fragile. The European Central Bank just raised its key rate by the largest amount ever, three-quarters of a percentage point. But the Fed has already raised its key rate by that amount twice this year, with a third expected this upcoming week. Some traders even say a gargantuan hike of a full per-

centage point could be possible, following a hotter-than-expected report on U.S. inflation Tuesday.

Partly because of that less aggressive bent, 10-year bonds across Europe and other areas of the world offer much lower yields than U.S. Treasuries, such as Germany's 1.75% and Japan's 0.25%. When investors from Asia and Europe buy Treasuries, they have to trade their own currencies for U.S. dollars. That pushes up the dollar's value.

A STRONG DOLLAR HELPS U.S. TOURISTS, RIGHT?

Yes. U.S. travelers in Tokyo spending 10,000 yen on dinner will be using 23% fewer dollars than a year ago for the same-priced meal.

With the dollar up sharply so far this year against everything from the Argentine peso to the Egyptian pound to the South Korean won, the dollar is going further in many countries than before.

DOES IT HELP ONLY RICH PEOPLE WHO CAN AFFORD TO TRAVEL ABROAD?

No. A stronger dollar also helps U.S. shoppers by keeping a lid on prices for imports and pushing downward on inflation.

When the dollar is rising against the euro, for example, European companies make more euros on each \$1 of sales. With that cushion, they could cut the dollar price for their products and still make the same amount of euros. □

EU wants to toughen cybersecurity rules for smart devices

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's executive arm proposed new legislation Thursday that would force manufacturers to ensure that devices connected to the internet meet cybersecurity standards, making the 27-nation bloc less vulnerable to attacks.

The EU said a ransomware attack takes place every 11 seconds, and the global annual cost of cybercrime is estimated at 5.5 trillion euros in 2021. In Europe alone, cyberattacks cost between 180 and 290 billion euros each year, according to EU officials.

The European Commission said an increase of cyberattacks was witnessed during the coronavirus pandemic and that Russia's war in Ukraine has raised concerns that European energy infrastructure could also be targeted amid a global energy crunch.

The EU's executive commission said the law would not only reduce attacks but also benefit consumers since it will improve data and privacy protection.

"When it comes to cybersecurity, Europe is only as strong as its weakest link, be it a vulnerable member state or an unsafe product along the supply chain," said Thierry Breton, the EU commissioner for the internal market.

"Computers, phones, household appliances, vir-



A person uses a smartphone in Chicago, Sept. 16, 2017.

Associated Press

tual assistance devices, cars, toys... each and every one of these hundreds of millions of connected products is a potential entry point for a cyberattack."

Breton said most hardware and software products are currently not subject to any cybersecurity obligations. If adopted, the regulation would require manufacturers to take into account cybersecurity in the design and development of their devices. Companies would remain responsible for the security of products throughout their expected lifetime, or a minimum of five years.

Market authorities will have the power to withdraw or recall non-compliant devices and to fine companies that will not abide by the rules.

The Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA), which rep-

resents computer, communications and internet industry firms, welcomed the commission's goal of improving cyber resilience but said the draft law would introduce unnecessary.

"These cybersecurity rules should strive to weed out bad products from the EU market, but the current ... proposal would lead to innovative products piling up in waiting rooms before they can be used by Euro-

peans," CCIA Europe Public Policy Director Alexandre Roure said. □

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This 2009 image released by 20th Century Films shows filmmaker James Cameron on the set of "Avatar."

By **JAKE COYLE**

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Thirteen years after James Cameron plunged moviegoers into the cosmic world of "Avatar," the lush, distant moon of Pandora is finally orbiting back into view. Cameron's "Avatar" industrial complex has been whirling in high gear for some time; production on the upcoming sequel, "Avatar: The Way of Water," began back in 2017. But after shuffling through half a decade's worth of release dates, Cameron's science-fiction epic is poised to again blanket movie screens and transport willing travelers back, in 3-D, to the land of the Na'vi.

For even the visionary filmmaker of "Titanic" and "The Terminator," the relaunch of "Avatar" is, as Cameron said in a recent interview from Wellington, New Zealand, "a big bet." A third "Avatar" is already in post-production, and production has begun on a fourth. The record-breaking \$2.8 billion in box office that "Avatar" grossed made the coming "Avatar" armada a far-from-risky wager. But a lot has changed since the original's release, when Netflix was still renting DVDs by mail and Cameron was working for 20th Century Fox.

To whet moviegoers' appetites ahead of the Dec. 16 debut of the three-hour "Avatar: The Way of Water" — and remind them of a movie world they may have lost touch with — the Walt Disney Co. on Friday will rerelease "Avatar" in a remastered, 4K, HDR version that he says is "better than it's ever looked." It's an opening salvo in Cameron's ambitious plan to sketch a yet-grandier sci-fi saga, and to again conjure a cinematic experience, as he says, "that you simply cannot have in the home." Taking a break from all the "Avatar" juggling, Cameron talked re-watching the original, his expectation for "The Way of Water" and why he nearly quit the

"Avatar" business.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Does "Avatar" seem like a long time ago to you?

CAMERON: It feels like yesterday at times and then obviously it feels like more than a decade other times. The time has passed quickly. I've been doing all sorts of interesting things. Deep ocean research. Building submersibles. Writing four epic movies. Now finishing up "Avatar 2" and we're mid-process in post on "Avatar 3." So "Avatar" has never been far from my mind. I constantly go back to it, obviously in the remaster process making it better than it's ever looked before. I'm kind of just living on Pandora right now.

AP: When you went back to watch "Avatar," how did it look to you?

CAMERON: I see a lot of good work by a lot of good people in terms of the production design, the visual effects, the groundbreaking strides that were made at that time in capturing the performances of the actors, and the great work of the actors. It was tough to live up to. We had set the bar very high for ourselves back then and we had to live up to that bar this time with the new films. I remind our VFX team all the time: "Look at the bugs in the forest in the first movie. We had better bugs!"

AP: Moviegoing rebounded this summer but there's been a late-summer lull that the "Avatar" re-release may help jumpstart. How do you see the health of theatrical right now?

CAMERON: It's shown resiliency that I don't think we expected. The pandemic, quite rightly, scared everybody. There was a period of time where you were basically risking your life to go to the movies. People did it anyway. Now, we feel like we're past the hump or at least it's a manageable problem. We're seeing a resurgence

Q&A: James Cameron on the return of 'Avatar'

back in cinemas. It's not where we were before. Streaming has taken a bite. The pandemic has taken a bite. We're probably down 20, 25% from where we were pre-pandemic. I think it's going to be a very long tail on this thing before we're back to where we were before. It's incumbent on us to double down on showmanship.

AP: Over the years, some have argued that "Avatar," despite its stature as the highest grossing film of all time, hasn't stuck in the culture the way you'd expect. Do those arguments irk you?

CAMERON: I think it's true for a specific reason, which is that we didn't immediately follow it up with another film in two or three years, and another film in two or three years. We didn't play the Marvel game. We're playing a longer game here. "Avatar" isn't going anywhere, it just didn't follow up with a continuous barrage to keep it in the public eye and the public consciousness, which is what you have to do. Taking a lesson from that, we basically architected four sequels so that if "Avatar 2" is successful, we can follow it up with a regular cadence — two years, maybe three years at the most between "3" and "4." It will be in the public consciousness more and more regularly, but only if people embrace "Avatar 2."

AP: And there is an awful lot riding on "The Way of Water."

CAMERON: Yeah, it's a big play. It's a big bet. And we won't know where we are until the second or third weekend. The success of the first film — we had a pretty good opening at \$75 million. But openings are dwarfing that by factors of two or even three these days. Even if we have a stellar opening, we won't really know where we are for a couple weeks because it was the return visits on the first one. It was people wanting to go share. If we get that again, we'll probably be on solid ground.

AP: I think the odds are in your favor.

CAMERON: Nobody knows. The market has changed. Twenty-five percent could be our entire margin. It's one thing to make a lot of money, it's another thing to actually make a profit. We're not going to keep making movies that lose money even though they look good and make a ton of money. This is a wait-and-see, let's-put-it-out-there-and-see-if-people-embrace-it kind of situation.

AP: "Avatar" was especially rich in an ecological subtext. In the 13

years since, much has only gone worse for the climate and the health of the planet. How much was that on your mind making the sequels?

CAMERON: Very much so, even to the extent that I very strongly debated with myself and discussed with my wife whether I should stop filmmaking and work on the sustainability issues. But we managed to be able to do that in parallel with the filmmaking process. We're doing all of our sustainability efforts — I don't want to say as a side hustle, but in parallel. I put as much effort into that as I do the filmmaking. That said, the new "Avatar" films aren't any more like a lecture on climate or environmentalism than the first one was. The first one was an adventure. It captured you at the level of character, at a level of storytelling. I think subtext is a useful way of looking at it. It's there but it's not what's driving the story. And we kept that in mind with the new films. Yes, "Avatar: The Way of Water" is about the oceans and our relationship with the oceans and the animals that live in it. But it's driven by character.

AP: "Avatar: The Way of Water" will bring back 3D and feature high-frame rate footage, both of which moviegoers have mixed opinions on. What do you think has been the biggest technological leap in the last 13 years?

CAMERON: In terms of the presentation, we're authoring in high-dynamic range, which I think is very important. Projection out there in the field is brighter now than it was a decade ago, which is much better for 3D. We're judiciously using high-frame rates in the process of authoring our 3D because people become more sensitive to rapid lateral motion. Your mind is more sensitive, so we solved that by judiciously applying high-frame rate here and there throughout the film. That's all at the service of making it a better viewing experience.

I don't think anybody should go see a movie because it's authored a certain way. That's just part of our showmanship. I think the reasons to see this film are the same reasons to see the first one. You enter a world. You become fully immersed in it. You feel like it surrounds you and you become an inhabitant there, and you get to linger there. You go on that journey. Of course, in the new film, it's a bit longer because we have more characters and more story to service. I think people are very story-driven. □

Player revolt helped Presidents Cup and now hurts it

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

The great disruption in golf is doing no favors to the Presidents Cup, which already struggles for an identity as a global competition owned and operated by one tour.

But look at it another way. Without disruption, there probably wouldn't even be a Presidents Cup.

The split caused by the arrival of Saudi-backed LIV Golf doesn't have a lot in common with the PGA Tour breaking away from the PGA of America more than 50 years ago, except that lawyers were involved and feelings were hurt in both.

The short version of the rift from the late 1960s was tour professionals wanting more control — especially as corporate money and television began to arrive — instead of the PGA of America having veto power and catering to club pros.

It became so contentious that Jack Nicklaus wrote an op-ed piece in Sports Illustrated in September 1968 — Roger Staubach was on the cover that week — ripping into Leo Fraser, the PGA of America secretary, and accusing him of misleading the public.

"Fraser did spell my name correctly — Jack Nicklaus. He even had my age right — 28," Nicklaus wrote. "The rest of his cutting statement, though, was a personal assault."



Adam Scott, of Australia, Tom Kim and Hideki Matsuyama, of Japan, walk up the fifth fairway during practice for the Presidents Cup golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022, in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

Imagine if Tiger Woods wrote something like that today.

Both sides finally reached an accord, leading to the creation of the Tournament Players Division for tour players, and that eventually became the PGA Tour. But there were properties to divide.

The tour players took the World Series of Golf, at the time a popular 36-hole event for major champions at Firestone Country Club in Ohio. The PGA of America took the Ryder Cup, which back then was so one-sided that it lost money and struggled to sell tickets in the U.S.

If the players had taken the

Ryder Cup and it became the money-making showcase it is now, would the tour even have bothered inventing the Presidents Cup?

Don't lose sight of the money, because golf revolved around it long before Greg Norman began offering outrageous sums in signing fees and prize money (Pat Perez has made \$3.7 million in four events — his best year on the PGA Tour was \$2,962,641 over 31 tournaments in 2018).

The Presidents Cup is a huge corporate sell at Quail Hollow.

But it's really just another week of seeing the best players outside Europe in

the exciting format of team matches, with 12 of them competing under a flag dreamed up by someone in marketing.

That much is clear by who's not playing this week.

British Open champion Cameron Smith of Australia was leading the International standings a month ago. Now he's No. 4 on the LIV Golf money list after two events. He's not at Quail Hollow because the PGA Tour suspended him.

Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa resigned his PGA Tour membership to join LIV Golf. He was so good in this competition that he compiled a winning record (9-6-4) despite playing on four

losing teams. He's not here, either.

The PGA Tour's own tournament regulations say that to be eligible for the International team, a player must compete in at least 15 events that award world ranking points during the qualification period. Oosthuizen played in 18.

It says nothing about being a PGA Tour member.

But the PGA Tour considers this an "approved" tournament, and it considers Oosthuizen in violation of its regulations from when he signed up for LIV Golf without a release.

"There's no rule that says I need to be a PGA Tour member to play the Presidents Cup, especially as an International team player," Oosthuizen told Golf.com. "I made my decision where I am playing golf. But I didn't do anything wrong while I was a PGA Tour member."

This might have been a chance for the Presidents Cup to look more like a true competition between nations instead of a match put together by the PGA Tour.

Instead, the PGA Tour made it clear that it's us or them, whether it's the FedEx Cup or the Presidents Cup. Commissioner Jay Monahan said in a memo to players in June after the first batch of defections that those players are "no longer eligible to participate in PGA Tour tournament play, including the Presidents Cup." □

P.K. Subban announces retirement after 13 NHL seasons

The Associated Press

Defenseman P.K. Subban announced his retirement from the NHL on Tuesday following 13 seasons playing for the Montreal Canadiens, Nashville Predators and New Jersey Devils.

The 33-year-old former Norris Trophy winner shared the news on social media. Subban, who is from Toronto, registered 115 goals and 467 points in 824 reg-

ular-season games. The 43rd overall pick at the 2007 NHL draft added 62 points (18 goals, 44 assists) in 96 postseason games. He won the Norris Trophy as the league's top defenseman in 2013 with the Canadiens.

Subban, who was an unrestricted free agent this summer, has done television in the past and hinted at new opportunities in his

retirement post.

"I never looked at myself or ever felt I was 'just a hockey player,'" he wrote. "I always looked at myself as a person who happened to play hockey."

"Having that perspective allowed me to enjoy every shift like it was my last, celebrate every goal with emotion and play every game as if someone paid to watch me who had nev-



New Jersey Devils' P.K. Subban plays during an NHL hockey game against the Philadelphia Flyers, Tuesday, March 23, 2021, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

er seen me play before." □

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Fine line between longevity, Brady and a Sayers-like career

By **FRED GOODALL**

AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — There's a fine line between a Tom Brady and a Gale Sayers.

Whether a player is a seven-time Super Bowl champion who plays well into his 40s like Brady or all-time great running back knocked out of football during his prime like Sayers there's an element of luck to longevity in the NFL.

For all the evolving technology, increased awareness of the value of year-round fitness regimens and rule changes designed to make the game safer, players concede good fortune is a common denominator to staying on the field.

"People don't like to use the word luck, but there's no doubt there's something to that," Hall of Fame linebacker Derrick Brooks said. "You do have to take care of your body and do everything you can to give yourself a chance to play every week, but you've got to be fortunate, too."

"I can't tell you how many times my ankle got twisted in the bottom of a pile or somebody hit me and I'm thinking, man, I'm lucky I didn't get hurt," Brooks added. "Then you look at somebody else and think that's not that bad a hit, and it turns out to be a serious injury. You just never know." Trey Lance can relate. The San Francisco quarterback suffered a season-ending injury Sunday, just two games into the season. But the 22-year-old needs to look no further than Brady for inspiration.

In a league where the average career spans three to five years, Brady is in his 23rd season and is the oldest starting quarterback in NFL history at age 45. The league's career passing leader returned from a



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Trey Lance (5) gestures while being carted off the field during the first half of an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022.

knee injury that sidelined him for all but one game in 2008 to shatter numerous records and raise the NFL standard for winning.

Sayers, an electrifying runner whose career with the Chicago Bears was cut short by injuries 50 years ago, wasn't as fortunate.

The first player to score six touchdowns in a NFL game retired in 1971, having appeared in just 68 games over seven seasons. Sayers played in two games each of his last two seasons, but had such an impact on the Bears and the league that at age 34, he became the youngest player ever inducted into the Hall of Fame. "We don't know when our career is going to be over. We just got to prepare for each day and attack each day with our best effort," said New Orleans Saints quarterback Jameis Winston, who's back this season after missing much of 2021 while recovering from surgery to repair the anterior cruciate

ligament in his left knee.

"I'm fortunate I get to play quarterback. I don't have to play running back, linebacker, defensive line or offensive line. So, I can't complain," Winston added. "Those guys in the trenches, they're really hitting. They're really putting their life at risk every play. But they enjoy that, and they do whatever it takes to protect themselves."

Brett Favre made 297 consecutive regular-season starts from 1992 to 2010 for the Green Bay Packers, New York Jets and Minnesota Vikings — the longest such streak for an offensive player in league history. Jim Marshall had the longest iron-man streak for a defensive player, starting 270 straight with the Vikings from 1961 to 1979.

Brooks' stretch of 208 consecutive starts for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1996 to 2008 is tied for 12th on the all-time list with Peyton Manning.

"Every player knows the

risk, what's at stake on every play," Brooks said. "You don't think about it. You go out and play. You can't play in fear."

Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan, who's father Steve played in the NFL, was drafted by New Orleans in 2011 and has only missed one game his entire career. And that was because of COVID-19, not a football injury.

"Everybody plays with nicks and bruises," Jordan said. "The ongoing funny story my dad would tell me, or I'll probably tell my kids, is that the first day you play football is the last day you'll be truly 100 percent healthy." One reason for that is a hurt player will take the field while an injury will sideline them.

Brady has the longest streak of consecutive starts among active quarterbacks (94). He's closing in on becoming the only player with three streaks of at least 100.

The Bucs entered this sea-

son with two new young starters on the offensive line. Second-year pro Robert Hainsey and rookie Luke Goedeke had earned Brady's trust in practice, in part by "showing up every day" and learning from their mistakes.

"Football is a dangerous sport. If they don't do a great job, they put other people at risk. If you don't know what you're doing, it could be dangerous for the (running) backs and for the quarterback, and vice versa," Brady said.

"No one wants to be hung out to dry," Brady added. "We're all out there together, we're all trying to protect each other. The more you feel like guys know what to do and care about what they're doing, I think you gain more trust in them."

Aaron Rodgers is 38 and in his 18th season. He said shoddy playing surfaces can contribute to injuries, and noted it also can be difficult avoiding fluky things from occurring off the field.

The Green Bay quarterback said he fractured his left pinky toe while working out at home during his quarantine after a positive COVID-19 test in 2021.

While the injury didn't cause him to miss any games and didn't limit his effectiveness, Rodgers recalled playing without practicing because of his ailing toe.

Jordan knows all about doing whatever is necessary to be available for the Saints.

"In terms of not missing a game, I feel like that's just major blessings from above," the defensive end said. "I feel like God has blessed me with not only talent but opportunity and I've been able to take advantage of each and every opportunity presented. □"